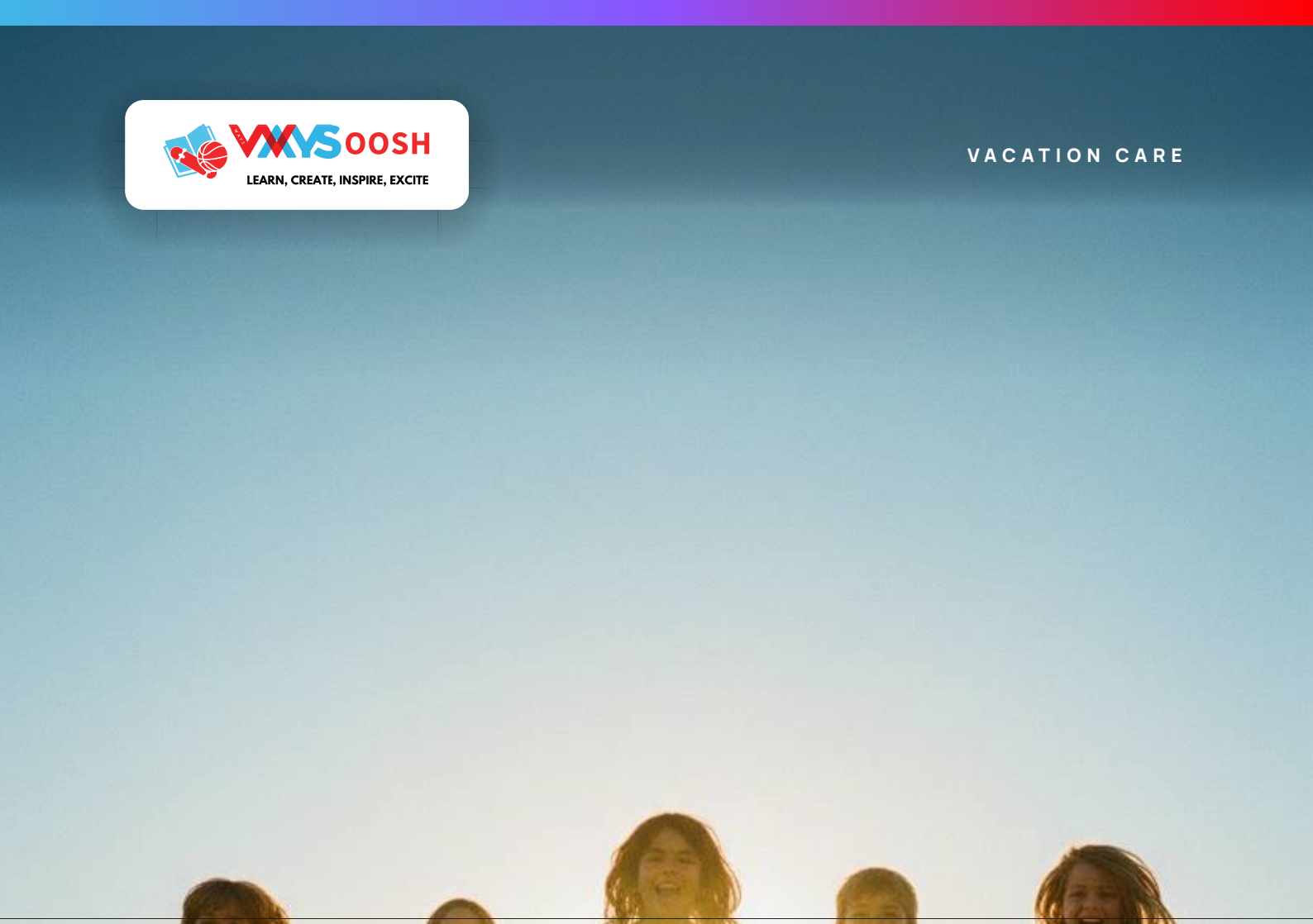
WAYS OOSH
LEARN, CREATE, INSPIRE, EXCITE

VACATION CARE



SUMMER HOLIDAYS · DEC 2026 – JAN 2027

Out of the house. Into the day.

Excursions, beaches and big days out for children aged 7 to 12, 8am to 6pm, run by our OOSH team.

AGES 7–12 | 8AM – 6PM | CCS FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

WAYS Youth & Family · North Bondi

ways.org.au/oosh

WELCOME

Six weeks. One very good summer.

The long summer break is the biggest stretch of the year, and it is the one that catches families out. School finishes on Thursday 17 December and does not start again until February. That is a long time to fill, and a long time to fill well.

This programme is built so that you only have to make the decision once. Book the days you need, and we take care of the rest: the excursions, the transport, morning and afternoon tea, the sunscreen, the quiet corner for the child who has had enough of the noise by two o'clock.

What we have put together covers the days either side of the Christmas closure: the first days of the holidays in December, then January from Monday 11 to Friday 29. There are big excursion days out across Sydney (climbing, karting, water parks, high ropes) and there are lower-key days out closer to home, at local parks and around the city. Children need both. A six-week block made entirely of big days out is exhausting, and a six-week block with none of them is a long wait for February.

A NOTE ON THIS EDITION

Every operating day in this block has a confirmed activity and venue. Each day also has its own page on our website with the full run-sheet, what to pack and what it costs. If anything does change, we will email every booked family before that week begins.

What has not changed

Vacation Care is run by our OOSH team, with the same ratios and the same approach as After School Care. We are a youth and family service first, and a holiday programme second. If something is going on for your child, we would rather you told us, and we will work with it.

WHERE WE ARE

WAYS Youth & Family, North Bondi. Drop-off and pick-up from the same place every day, whether the day is an excursion or a local excursion.

WHO IT IS FOR

Children aged 7 to 12. You do not need to be enrolled in our After School Care to book a Vacation Care day.

THE PROGRAMME · PART ONE

December 2026

Public school Term 4 finishes on Thursday 17 December. Vacation Care opens the very next morning and runs through to Wednesday 23 December.

DATE	DAY	WHERE	
Fri 18 Dec	**Wheels, Innovation & Tech**	Rushcutters Bay, then WAYS Bondi	LOCAL EXCURSION
Mon 21 Dec	**Luna Park**	Luna Park Sydney, Milsons Point	EXCURSION
Tue 22 Dec	**Winter Wonderland & Ice Skating**	WAYS Bondi, then ice rink, Alexandria	EXCURSION
Wed 23 Dec	**Holiday Cooking Around the World**	WAYS Bondi & Woolworths Bondi Beach	LOCAL EXCURSION
Thu 24 Dec – Fri 8 Jan	Service closed over the Christmas and New Year period		

WE REOPEN MONDAY 11 JANUARY

Vacation Care returns on Monday 11 January and runs through to Friday 29 January. The full calendar is on the next page.

Reading the calendar

EXCURSION

We travel out together for the day and return to the centre before pick-up.

LOCAL EXCURSION

A lower-key day: a local excursion plus activities at the centre.

CLOSED

The service is not open that day. No bookings are taken.

THE PROGRAMME · PART TWO

January 2027

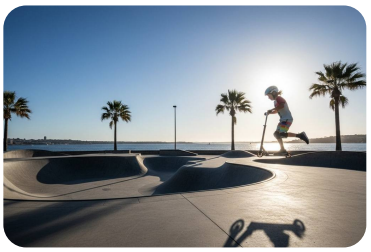
We reopen on Monday 11 January and run through to Friday 29 January.

DATE	DAY	WHERE	
Mon 11 Jan	**Indoor rope climbing**	Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym, St Peters	EXCURSION
Tue 12 Jan	**Luna Park · unlimited rides**	Luna Park Sydney, Milsons Point	EXCURSION
Wed 13 Jan	**Laser tag**	Underworld Laser, Menai	EXCURSION
Thu 14 Jan	**Art workshop & mini golf**	WAYS Bondi, then Holey Moley, Alexandria	LOCAL EXCURSION
Fri 15 Jan	**Nerf battle arena**	Nerf Land, The Rec Club, Miranda	EXCURSION
Mon 18 Jan	**Bouldering**	BlocHaus, Marrickville	EXCURSION
Tue 19 Jan	**High ropes & zip lines**	Treetops Adventure, St Ives	EXCURSION
Wed 20 Jan	**Alice in Wonderland: The Mad Hatter's Picnic**	WAYS Bondi, then Centennial Park	LOCAL EXCURSION
Thu 21 Jan	**Ninja obstacle course**	Ninja Kids, Hornsby	EXCURSION
Fri 22 Jan	**Go-karting**	Fastlane Karting, Minto	EXCURSION
Mon 25 Jan	**Aqua park (ages 10+)**	Cables Aqua Park, Penrith	EXCURSION
Tue 26 Jan	Australia Day · public holiday · service closed		
Wed 27 Jan	**Climbing & adventure centre**	Peak Pursuits, Castle Hill	EXCURSION
Thu 28 Jan	**Trampoline & inflatables**	Frenzy Park, Chester Hill	EXCURSION
Fri 29 Jan	**Geocaching & Basketball**	Cook + Phillip Park, Art Gallery of NSW & The Domain	LOCAL EXCURSION

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

After School Care resumes when Term 1 begins. If you need care from the first week back, book it now, as the first fortnight of a new year fills quickly.

December.



FRI 18 DEC · RUSHCUTTERS BAY, THEN BONDI

Wheels, Innovation & Tech

Morning at the new skate and scooter area on the harbour foreshore, with basketball and open parkland alongside. Then back to WAYS for digital design and VR. Bring your own scooter or skateboard and a properly fitted helmet.

BRING YOUR OWN WHEELS · HELMET REQUIRED · LOCAL EXCURSION · DIGITAL DESIGN & VR



MON 21 DEC · MILSONS POINT

Luna Park Sydney

The first Monday of the holidays, and we start it at the harbour. An unlimited rides pass and the ferris wheel at the end of the day. Rides are allocated by height as well as age, so the group splits across the park and regroups through the day.

UNLIMITED RIDES · HARBOUR · HEIGHT LIMITS APPLY



TUE 22 DEC · BONDI, THEN ALEXANDRIA

Winter Wonderland & Ice Skating

A winter wonderland morning at the centre, celebrating how the festive season is marked across the northern hemisphere with decorating and a long table of craft, then out to the ice rink at Alexandria in the afternoon. Skates and helmets are provided and nobody needs to have skated before; the educators go out on the ice too, which is reliably the funniest part of the day.

FESTIVE CRAFT · ICE SKATING · BEGINNERS WELCOME



WED 23 DEC · BONDI & THE LOCAL WOOLWORTHS

Holiday Cooking Around the World

Teams choose a country from the options provided, research a dish, build a shopping list to a set budget, then walk to Woolworths Bondi Beach to buy the ingredients. Back at WAYS they cook it, plate it and present it as part of an international afternoon tea.

REAL BUDGETS · A SUPERMARKET SHOP · LOCAL EXCURSION

Week one of January.



MON 11 JAN · ST PETERS

Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym

Harnessed rope climbing on walls that go a lot higher than they look from the floor. Venue instructors and WAYS educators belay every climb, so children who have never climbed get up the wall on their first attempt. Most of the morning is spent working out that the hard part is trusting the rope.

HARNESS & ROPE · ALL ABILITIES



TUE 12 JAN · MILSONS POINT

Luna Park Sydney

An unlimited rides pass and a day at the harbour. Rides are allocated by height as well as age, so the group splits across the park and regroups through the day. We run Luna Park twice this summer, once on 21 December and again here, because it never stops being the day they ask for.

UNLIMITED RIDES · HARBOUR · HEIGHT LIMITS APPLY



WED 13 JAN · MENAI

Underworld Laser

Multi-level arena, fog, neon and a scoreboard that makes the whole thing far more serious than any of us expected. Played in teams across several rounds with a break between each. Good for mixed ages: the youngest in the group tend to do unreasonably well.

TEAMS · INDOORS · AIR CONDITIONED



THU 14 JAN · BONDI, THEN ALEXANDRIA

Art workshop & Holey Moley

We start with an art workshop with Jen at WAYS, with time to experiment with materials and make something to take home, then head to Holey Moley for a round of properly silly indoor mini golf. Creative in the morning, competitive by midday.

ART WORKSHOP · INDOOR MINI GOLF · LOCAL EXCURSION



FRI 15 JAN · MIRANDA

Nerf Land at The Rec Club

A full indoor arena of inflatable barricades, foam darts and team games run by their coaching staff. Protective eyewear supplied, or bring your own safety glasses. This is the day for the children who want to run, duck and shout, and it is reliably one of the most booked days of any block.

TEAM GAMES · INDOORS · HIGH ENERGY

Week two of January.



MON 18 JAN · MARRICKVILLE

BlocHaus bouldering

Climbing without ropes, low to the ground, over deep matting. It is a puzzle as much as a sport: working out the order of the holds matters more than how strong you are. Supervised closely throughout.

PROBLEM SOLVING · CLOSE SUPERVISION · NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED



TUE 19 JAN · ST IVES

High ropes and zip lines

Rope bridges, cargo nets and zip lines strung between gum trees, with children clipped to a continuous safety line the whole way round. Courses are allocated by age, so each child goes on the course that suits them.

OUTDOORS · COURSES SET BY AGE · CLOSED SHOES REQUIRED



WED 20 JAN · CENTENNIAL PARK

Alice in Wonderland: The Mad Hatter's Picnic

Wonderland-inspired activities at WAYS, then out to Centennial Park for a scavenger hunt with clues to follow, oversized lawn games and a Mad Hatter's picnic under the fig trees.

SCAVENGER HUNT · OVERSIZED LAWN GAMES · LOCAL EXCURSION



THU 21 JAN · HORNSBY

Ninja Kids

Warped walls, hanging rings, balance beams and a foam pit, coached in rotations. Obstacles are suited to ability, so there is something to have a go at whatever your child's starting point.

COACHED · HIGH ENERGY · INDOORS



FRI 22 JAN · MINTO

Fastlane Karting

An indoor karting track, full helmets and a proper safety briefing before anyone gets behind the wheel. The focus is on safe driving, following the track rules and enjoying the challenge. Expect an extremely detailed account of the whole thing at dinner.

TIMED RACES · KARTS SET BY AGE · HELMETS SUPPLIED

THE DAYS OUT · THREE OF THREE

The last week.



MON 25 JAN · PENRITH

Cables Aqua Park

An inflatable water playground of slides, trampolines, runways and floating obstacles, across two booked 50-minute sessions with lifejackets provided. This day is for children aged 10 and over, and every child must be able to swim. Rash shirt, hat and two towels.

MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM · LIFEJACKETS PROVIDED · AGES 10+

TUE 26 JAN · Australia Day public holiday · the service is closed



WED 27 JAN · CASTLE HILL

Peak Pursuits

An indoor climbing and adventure centre: high ropes, vertical climbing challenges, rope bridges, cargo nets and themed obstacles. Different challenges to try at their own pace, so children can build confidence and take on something new.

HIGH ROPES · AT THEIR OWN PACE · INDOORS

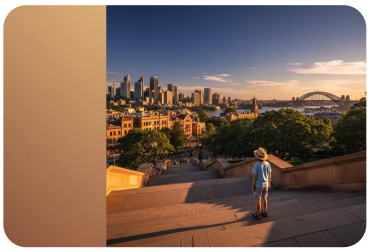


THU 28 JAN · CHESTER HILL

Frenzy Park

Trampolines, foam pits, inflatables and a ninja course under one roof, which is exactly what is needed on a 35-degree day. Grip socks are compulsory at this venue and are included in the day, so you do not need to buy them.

INDOORS · AIR CONDITIONED · GRIP SOCKS INCLUDED



FRI 29 JAN · COOK + PHILLIP, THE GALLERY & THE DOMAIN

Geocaching & Basketball

A geocaching adventure across the city, following clues to hidden locations, with basketball at Cook + Phillip Park, the free underground discovery space at the Art Gallery of NSW, and a picnic with lawn games at the Domain.

CITY GEOCACHING · THREE STOPS · LOCAL EXCURSION

WHY WE BUILD IN THE QUIETER DAYS ON PURPOSE

A six-week block of excursions sounds brilliant and is, in practice, too much. Children get tired, and tired children have a worse time at the aqua park than rested ones. The local excursion days are not filler: they are what makes the big days work.

FEES AND SUBSIDY

What it costs.

One flat daily fee covers the whole day, 8am to 6pm: the excursion, the entry and the transport. No separate excursion charge, no surcharge on the bigger days. Morning tea and afternoon tea are provided; please pack your child a lunch.

$115
DAILY FEE
SUMMER 2026-27

$95
EARLY BIRD A DAY
BOOK BY MON 7 DEC

8am–6pm
INCLUDED IN
EVERY DAY

How the Child Care Subsidy works

WAYS OOSH is approved for the Child Care Subsidy. For eligible families, CCS is usually paid directly to us and comes off your fee, so you pay the gap fee as long as your CCS details are up to date. Services Australia decides how CCS is paid, so check your myGov account for your own entitlement. After the maximum CCS, families can pay from $11.50 a day.

WHAT SETS YOUR RATE

Your family income, children in care and CCS entitlement.

WHAT YOU PAY

The gap between the daily fee and your subsidy. For most families this is a small fraction of the fee.

WHAT YOU NEED

A current CCS assessment through myGov and your child's CRN.

The practical details

INCLUDED	Entry fees, transport, morning and afternoon tea, equipment hire and activity costs.
CANCELLING	Cancel at least 7 days before the booked day. Cancellations with less than 7 days' notice are charged the full fee.
TROUBLE PAYING	Talk to us. We would rather have a conversation than lose a child from the programme.

A DAY, START TO FINISH

How an excursion day runs.

FROM 8:00AM

Arrival at WAYS Youth & Family, North Bondi

Parents sign their child in at the door. Breakfast is available for children who arrive early. Quiet activities until the group is together, so nobody is rushed out the door.

9:30AM

Morning circle and headcount

The day is explained properly: where we are going, what will happen, when lunch is, who to find if something goes wrong. Children are grouped and each group meets its educators.

10:00AM

We travel

By hired coach or public transport depending on the venue. Headcount on and headcount off, every time. Risk assessment completed and on file before any excursion runs.

11:00AM – 1:00PM

The activity

Run by the venue's own instructors with our educators spread through the group. Children who want a break take one; there is always somewhere to sit out without making a thing of it.

1:00PM

Lunch

A packed lunch from home, eaten together, usually outside. Allergies and dietary requirements are managed from the enrolment record, not from memory.

1:30PM – 3:30PM

Second session or free play

A second rotation at the venue, or a park nearby. On the hottest days we move indoors or into shade and slow the afternoon right down.

4:00PM

Back at the centre

Afternoon tea, then low-key activities: drawing, games, outside if the heat has gone out of the day.

UNTIL 6:00PM

Pick-up

Signed out by an authorised person. If you are running late, call us; it is far better than arriving worried.

SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

Tell us before the day, not after it.



WAYS has been a youth and family service in the eastern suburbs for a long time, and OOSH sits inside that. It means the people looking after your child in the holidays work alongside counsellors, youth workers and family support staff every day. It changes how we handle the hard bits.

What we would like to know

- A diagnosis, a support plan, or an NDIS plan
- Anxiety about crowds, noise, heights or water
- Allergies, medication, or a medical plan
- Something difficult happening at home
- A friendship or a child to keep some distance from
- Anything that made a previous holiday programme hard

None of it rules a child out. It changes how we plan the day: which group they are in, which educator stays near them, whether we build in an earlier break, whether a particular venue is the wrong one for them that week.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Please tell us about your child's additional needs at least six weeks before their first booked day. This gives us time to apply for extra funding and put the right strategies in place to support your child as well as we can.

IF A DAY GOES WRONG

Some days a child runs out of energy early. If that happens, we will give you a call to let you know how the day is going, and together we will work out what is best for your child, whether that is staying on or heading home a little early.

YOUR TEAM

Who is actually with them.

Vacation Care is run by our OOSH team. Many of our educators also work in After School Care through the term, so most children will know some familiar faces on the first morning.

1:11
RATIO ON
EXCURSION DAYS

1:15
RATIO
IN CENTRE

Every educator on the floor holds

- A current NSW Working with Children Check
- Child protection training, refreshed annually
- Venue-specific briefing before every excursion



ON EVERY EXCURSION

A qualified coordinator leads the day and is not attached to a group, so if one child needs extra support, the rest of the day keeps running. A nominated first aid officer is on every excursion. Medication, medical plans and emergency contacts travel with the group, not in a filing cabinet back at the centre.

MEET THEM BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

If your child is new to us, come in before the block starts. Fifteen minutes in the room with the educators who will be there on day one makes a real difference to a nervous child, and to a nervous parent. Contact our Enrolments Officer to arrange an orientation visit.

FROM OUR FAMILIES

What parents say afterwards.

350
children at our Vacation Care since January 2025

9.6 / 10
average parent rating, Winter and Spring 2026

5.0 ★
on Google, from 16 reviews

Since 1981
a youth and family service in the Eastern Suburbs

> “I normally get a grunt at pick-up when I ask ‘how was your day?’ This time I got a whole rundown of the day and how great it was.”
>
> **PARENT · TREETOPS DAY, SPRING 2026**

> “Great activities, fun staff, and she loved the smaller group size compared with other holiday programmes she has been to.”
>
> **PARENT · SPRING 2026**

> “Excellent excursion choice, good hours, easy drop-off and pick-up. High-quality educators.”
>
> **PARENT · WINTER 2026**

> “My kids were super happy every day they were there, with plenty of different activities. It’s super organised and the staff are great.”
>
> **PARENT · SPRING 2026**

> “The people are fabulous: caring, happy and efficient. Every day was a joy, and the structure is excellent.”
>
> **PARENT · WINTER 2026**

> “Great vacation care with awesome activities every day. Much better than some of the others in the east where the kids don’t leave the site. Supportive staff with great communication.”
>
> **PARENT · GOOGLE REVIEW**

GETTING READY

Your first day.

1

Enrol online

Complete the enrolment form at ways.org.au/oosh. You will need your CRN and your child's, plus medical and emergency contact details.

2

Book your days

Choose from the calendar on pages 3 and 4. Book the whole block or individual days; there is no minimum.

3

Tell us what we need to know

Allergies, medication, support needs, anything going on. Call rather than relying on the form if it is complicated.

4

Arrive from 8am

Come to WAYS Youth & Family, North Bondi. First day, come a little earlier if you can; it gives your child time to settle before the group forms.

What to pack, every day

- A labelled drink bottle (the biggest one you own)
- A broad-brimmed hat, required for outdoor play under our sun safety policy
- Sunscreen applied before arrival. We reapply through the day
- Closed-in shoes, required at climbing, ropes, ninja, karting and trampoline venues
- A change of clothes, especially for the younger children
- A small backpack they can carry themselves all day
- Any medication in a labelled box, handed to an educator
- On water days: rash shirt, swimmers, two towels and a plastic bag

MEDICATION

Tell us before the day if your child needs any medication, including pain relief. Hand it to an educator in a labelled box. Educators store and give all medication; children must not carry or take it themselves.

FOOD

Please pack a lunch and a water bottle each day. Morning and afternoon tea are provided. All food must be nut-free and sesame-free.

GOOD TO KNOW

The questions we get asked.

Q. Does my child have to be in your After School Care?

No. Vacation Care is open to any child aged 7 to 12, whether or not they attend our term-time programme or go to a school nearby.

Q. Can I book single days rather than the whole block?

Yes. There is no minimum. Book one day or all of them. The excursion days do fill, so book the ones you particularly want early.

Q. Do I need to pack lunch?

Yes. Please pack a lunch and a water bottle each day. Morning tea and afternoon tea are provided and included in the fee. All food must be nut-free and sesame-free. If your child has allergies or dietary requirements, tell us at enrolment and we will plan around them.

Q. What if it is 40 degrees?

We have a heat plan. Outdoor excursions move indoors or get cancelled and replaced with an in-centre day, never with children sitting in the sun. You are told before the day, not when you arrive. There is no extra charge if we have to change an activity.

Q. My child cannot swim. Can they come on the water day?

No. The aqua park day on Monday 25 January is for children aged 10 and over who can swim. If your child cannot swim, please choose another day. If you are unsure, talk to us before you book.

Q. How do you get there?

Hired coach or public transport, depending on the venue. Children are never transported in private vehicles. Headcounts are done getting on and getting off, every leg.

Q. What if my child does not want to do the activity?

Educators encourage every child to have a go. If a child is hesitant, we talk with them to work out what is holding them back, so children and parents can make an informed decision. An educator stays with any child who sits out.

Q. Can friends be put in the same group?

Usually, yes. Tell us at booking. Groups are sometimes set by height or age at venues that require it, which can split a pair for part of a day.

Q. What are your hours and can I be late?

8am to 6pm. If you are running late, call. Late collection fees apply but we would always rather know than wonder.

Q. Who do I call?

Enrolments and bookings: the Enrolments number on the back of this pack. On the day, the centre phone stays with the educators supervising the children, who may be travelling, doing headcounts or belaying. Please send an SMS unless they are expecting your call.



AND WHEN TERM STARTS AGAIN

After School Care at WAYS

When Term 1 begins, After School Care runs from the final bell until 6:30pm, five days a week, with afternoon tea, sport, art and play.

$26
PER AFTERNOON
PERMANENT BOOKING

$31
PER AFTERNOON
CASUAL BOOKING

Before Child Care Subsidy. Most families pay considerably less.

READY TO BOOK

Pick your days and we will take it from there.

ONLINE	**ways.org.au/oosh**: enrol and book the whole summer in one go
PHONE	Enrolments: 0433 245 322
VISIT	WAYS Youth & Family, North Bondi NSW 2026
AGES	7 to 12 years · 8:00am to 6:00pm · CCS for eligible families